



The Bethel Courier.

Volume V, No. 1

March, 1981

Bethel Historical Society



THE IRISH NEIGHBORHOOD

By Margaret Joy Tibbetts

Author's Note: Much of the information provided here, including the map was provided by Nellie Harrington Capillon and John Harrington, children of Michael Harrington and grandchildren of Patrick Harrington, one of the first settlers of the Irish Neighborhood, and I wish to thank them. I also appreciate the assistance received from Mrs. John Deegan, Abby Buswell and Richard Carter. I wish particularly to thank my mother, Pearl Ashby Tibbetts, for her memories and insights.

When you leave Bethel by Vernon Street the town line between Bethel and Greenwood is about two miles from the village, very near the junction of Paradise Road with the extension of Vernon Street. A short distance beyond the town line there is a road off to the left which climbs the back of Mt. Abram to a small settlement, the Irish Neighborhood. The Irish Neighborhood is in Greenwood, but Bethel is the nearest village.

Halfway up the hill, which is steep, on the right, off the road about forty yards, is a small and lovely cemetery. This cemetery was bought by Patrick Harrington and Patrick Connelly for use by the Catholic families of the Neighborhood. Five generations of Irish and their descendants are buried there. Last June Mother and I walked down to the cemetery from the road; on either side

Irish Neighborhood School, 1903, Guy Coffin Photographer.

First Row (Left to Right): Carl Lufkin (?), Grace Deardon, Second Row: Mary Harrington, Mary Deegan, Margaret Pool, Nellie Harrington, John Harrington, Lester Swan, _____ John Deegan.

Third Row: Ida May Hill, teacher, Anne Deegan, Charles Deegan, Thomas Harrington(?)

Photo Courtesy of the Greenwood Historical Society.

ladies' slippers grew in profusion. Near the top of the hill the road breaks to the left to the Harrington homes, the last of the farms still occupied by the descendants of one of the original settlers of the Irish Neighborhood. The view from the top is magnificent.

I can remember going with my father when he paid calls in the Irish Neighborhood, probably in the late 1920's. The road was steep, narrow and hard for the old Ford. The Irish Neighborhood families were favorites of my father, Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts, who was proud of the touch of Irish in his own background. He was particularly fond of the Harringtons but he had good friends all over the Neighborhood. He relished their wit and much enjoyed it when Bernard Harrington teased him about being a Republican. (No one was ever a stronger Republican than the Doctor; the Irish Neighborhood, on the other hand, had many good Democrats). But best of all the Doctor appreciated the loyalty and tenacity of the Irish in the Neighborhood.

They stuck with their friends and were proud of their heritage.

They had a right to be proud. The establishment and maintenance of the Irish Neighborhood took hard work, thrift and courage. In the late 1840's two terrible famines, resulting from failures of the potato crop combined with staggering insensitivity on the part of the British Government to the sufferings of the Irish, sent hundreds of thousands, eventually more than a million, Irish away from their starving island. Most of them came to the United States, many disembarking at Boston, the first port touched. Those who came were predominantly young and strong enough to raise the fare and to seek a new life. Their arrival coincided with the expansion of the railroads in the United States. The Irish brought what the railroads needed — young strong laborers eager for jobs and ready to travel for work. When the railroads came through this part of Maine the Irish came too.

The 1850 census (the year before the railroad came to Bethel) lists more than 100 names with Ireland as the place of origin and "laborer" as occupation. These 1850 names do not include names familiar to us as Irish Neighborhood names, and of course the majority of workers would stick with the railroad as it moved along. Eventually some were to stay. In December, 1884 an "Oxford Democrat" correspondent, Lemuel Dunham, wrote of a trip he had made to Greenwood and gave this version of the origin of the Irish Neighborhood:

The Irish Neighborhood lies in the Northwest corner of Greenwood, about three miles south of Bethel Hill and joins Albany. Mr. Flarity (Flaherty) came from Ireland with a small family nearly forty years ago, went to work on the G.T.R. (Grand Trunk Railroad) at Mechanic Falls and followed it as far as Gorham, when he left it and bought a farm in this neighborhood, on to which he moved his family. The farm was considered a poor one hardly worth the name, as several Yankees had been on it and got starved out. When Mr. F. commenced on it he had no team, and instead of hiring one to do his ploughing, he dug the ground up with a spade, threw the brake roots into heaps, then burned them and used the ashes for manure. He soon began to prosper as he deserved to until his children numbered ten and he erected a good set of buildings. He is now about 74 years old and lives with one of his daughters, who married a Diggins (Deegan): they have two children. I have noticed this family more particularly as it was the first one which came to this neighborhood.

The name Thomas Flaherty appears in the Greenwood Atlas in 1858.

The 1860 Bethel census carried another important Irish Neighborhood name — Patrick Harrington. According to family records, Patrick Harrington was working for the railroad in 1860 and lived in Bethel with his wife Mary and infant son Michael. He was paid \$1.00 a day. In 1863 the railroad suddenly cut the men's wages to \$.90 a day. Patrick Harrington left the railroad, took his savings in gold, and bought the Josiah Bartlett farm up the hill from Thomas Flaherty. Both the Patrick Harrington farm and the adjoining farm which eventually belonged to Michael Harrington are today still owned by members of the Harrington family — continuously for 118 years.

Within the next few years other Irish families came, probably under much the same circumstances. By 1884 there were nine families in all; the map in this issue from memory represents the Irish Neighborhood as it was about 75 years ago and there are ten Irish names indicated (there were also Yankee families in the Neighborhood, probably the Swans and Thomas Smith). Old Tom Flaherty died in 1901 aged 92. My mother remembers some of the original Irish settlers who were still alive at the time

of World War I. There was "Red" Lydon and "Black" Lydon — the red Irish and the black Irish are the two best known physical types — and their wives, all of whom spoke with a brogue. The "Oxford Democrat" visitor of 1884 spoke of the Irish families with respect. "John Gill", he wrote, "is an industrious farmer who has a good farm. His wife is an educated lady, having attended English schools before coming to this country . . . The family consists of nine children, five sons and four daughters". (This John Gill was Abbie Gill Buswell's Grandfather; one of the four daughters, Molly Gill, was to have a fine dress shop in Boston). In the "Oxford Advertiser" of January, 1884 a correspondent notes that in the Mt. Abram district "the people here are nearly all Irish and they are a thrifty set, and can outdo the Yankees every time raising potatoes."

If one checks the dates on the markers in the cemetery it is clear that the Irish on Mt. Abram were a hardy group. Nearly all of the original settlers were in their late 80's when they died — except for those in their 90's. My mother remembers when my father operated on old Bartley Lydon for a strangulated hernia; Bartley Lydon was already ninety and the operation was hazardous but my father had no choice. The patient lay on the kitchen table, my father operated, mother gave the anesthetic and young Bernard Harrington held the lantern. The following day old Bartley sat up in bed and called for his pants and his pipe. He lived several more years. After the operation when mother went out to catch her breath and walked down the road from the farmhouse, the partridges flew up on either side as thick as robins.

In addition to farming — always difficult on the small hill farms — a good number of men in the Irish Neighborhood worked as laborers and in lumbering. For many years Joe Harrington, one of the sons of Patrick Harrington, provided the wood for Gould Academy — 25 to 40 cords a year. In 1914 he received \$4.75 a cord. Society member Richard Carter tells of Bill Deardon who was a famous ax man. It was considered standard for two good men to cut 5,000 feet of pine in one day but, if necessary because of a man's absence, Bill Deardon could cut 5,000 feet by himself.

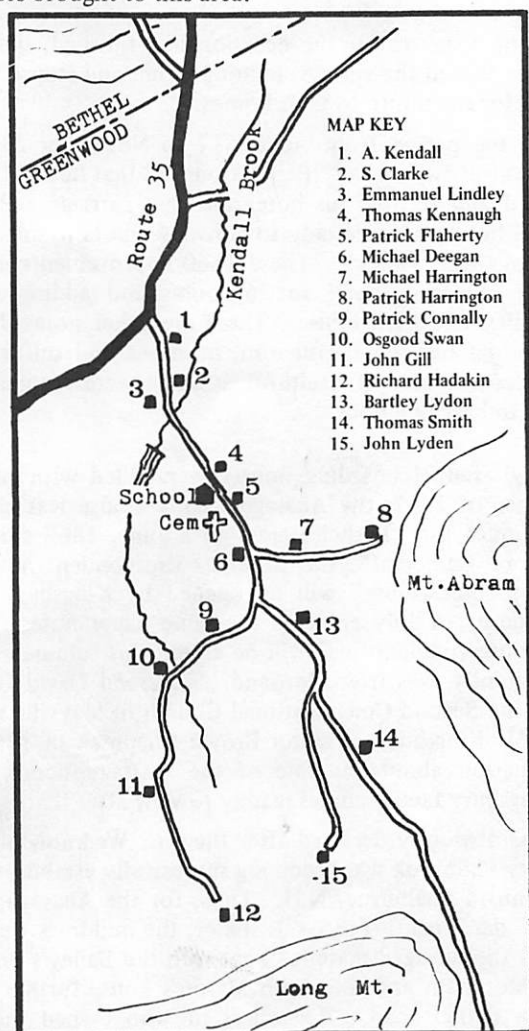
The original settlers must have talked among themselves of the old country at times, but since they did not necessarily all come from the same area common memories would be limited. The young people of course grew up with memories only of this country. A unifying characteristic of all, however, was that all were Catholics. There was no Catholic Church near — at that time there were very few Catholics in this area — but a priest came regularly to the Irish Neighborhood, meeting in people's homes; he probably came more often in the summer months. The "Oxford Democrat" visitor commented that the Irish "claim the right to their own religion, but they do not try to impose it upon others."

The school of course would be another unifying factor for the children attended the very small one room school beside the cemetery. In 1884, there were 22 pupils; Ella Herrick (Barbara Herrick Brown's aunt) was the teacher. After finishing at the Irish Neighborhood school the students went to Gould Academy, as did all Greenwood children in those days.

Today once past the fork where the road turns toward the Harringtons the Irish Neighborhood is almost completely grown up to woods with only abandoned cellar holes and a rough logging track to penetrate the trees. All over this section of the country the process of moving down from the hills to be nearer town began in earnest after World War I. Bad roads were harder

on automobiles than on horses, and the old farms were a hard way to make a living. Young people wanted to be nearer work and to be nearer town. It was the same with the Irish Neighborhood. Most of the young people of the large Irish Neighborhood families had taken it for granted that they had to move out to seek work; many had gravitated towards Portland and Boston where there were better markets for their labor. Some settled nearer Bethel village. As the older settlers died, the farms in the Irish Neighborhood were slowly abandoned. In at least one case, that of John Gill, fire destroyed his farm building in 1926 and he moved to Bethel.

The Irish Neighborhood remains, however, in name, in descendants and in tradition. There are still Harringtons on the land bought with Patrick's hard earned gold. There are Deegans and Kennaghs living and working in the Bethel area. Abby Gill Buswell who was born in the Irish Neighborhood lives in Bethel. Society member Barbara Hulbert Merrill who lives in Hanover is the daughter of Grace Deardon Hulbert. From those small old cellar holes and those poor little farms came good citizens for the Bethel area. The Irish of the Irish Neighborhood have a justified pride in the contribution of hard work and courage which their ancestors brought to this area.



Irish Neighborhood, 1880-1900. Courtesy of Donald G. Bennett.

Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all inquiries and suggestions to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Newsletter, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

One of the major strengths of the Bethel Historical Society over the years has been the tremendous generosity of members and friends in donating objects to the Society's collection and archives. Furniture, clothing, handcrafts, tools, photographs, diaries . . . The list is too long for this brief column. Members of the Society and visitors to the Moses Mason Museum can't help but be struck by the evidences of this generous spirit, and I would like to extend a hearty thank you to donors, past and present.

While the Society is in no way bereft of possessions, I'd also like to remind our members and friends that we are interested in acquiring further objects relating to the past. Such gifts are an excellent way to honor a family and its members, keep them in Bethel, and also insure that treasured possessions will be cared for and enjoyed by future generations. Director Stanley Howe is always glad to discuss our gift program with anyone with an object or objects to donate. Such donations are of course tax deductible.

In closing, I extend an invitation to all our members and friends to visit the museum this summer and participate in the many exciting events planned from Moses Mason's Birthday party to the 200th Anniversary of the Indian Raid.

Catherine S-C Newell

BOOK NOTE

Joseph E. Garland, An Experiment in Medicine: The First Twenty Years of the Pratt Diagnostic Clinic and the New England Center Hospital of Boston. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Riverside Press, 1960).

While this book by a former newspaperman was published over twenty years ago it only recently was brought to my attention by Society member Mary Valentine. It may be that other readers will find it of interest since Bethel is prominently featured in it due to Dr. John Gehring's and William Bingham II's ties with the town.

The book is primarily an official history of the Pratt Diagnostic Clinic and New England Center Hospital in Boston which were founded in 1940 and are associated with Tufts Medical School. This story is told here but of primary interest to students of Bethel history is the role of Dr. Gehring and Mr. Bingham. Dr. Gehring's clinic had attracted the thirty-two year old bachelor, William Bingham II in 1911 and through the years a strong bond of mutual affection and respect developed. This resulted in numerous benefactions for Mrs. Gehring's father's old schools, Gould Academy and the formation of the Bingham Associates Fund in Bethel, which largely financed the Clinic.

For readers interested in Dr. Gehring's work in Bethel and his influence beyond the town as well as Mr. Bingham's commitment to rural medicine in Maine there is much of interest here. The book also contains a memoir of Mr. Bingham composed by Dr. Samuel Proger, one time head of Tufts Medical School, the Bingham Associates Fund and the New England Center Hospital. Here is recorded a great deal about a man who did so much for his adopted town and yet has remained a remote and largely unknown figure.

SRH

BETHEL'S MINERAL SPRING AND THE ANASAGUNTICOOK HOUSE

One of Bethel's most unique hotel enterprises and unfortunately one of the more short-lived ones was the Anasagunticook House and Bethel Mineral Spring. The hotel and spring were located on the Northwest Bethel road at the foot of Anasagunticook Mountain (now Ellingwood Mt.). It was described in advertisements of the day as being four miles from Bethel Hill, one mile from the Grand Trunk depot in West Bethel and eighteen miles from the Alpine House in Gorham, N.H.

The grand opening of the Anasagunticook House and mineral spring took place on July 4, 1859. It was a well-attended event and fortunately for today's history buffs, its opening occurred in the first year of publication of Dr. Nathaniel True's "Bethel Courier". In fact, because Dr. True was invited to be the guest and principal speaker on the occasion, a good account of the hotel's opening appeared in the July 8, 1859 of the "Courier".

John Spencer Chapman established the hotel and developed its adjacent mineral spring. Chapman was a descendant of Eliphaz Chapman, Sr., who was the first Chapman settler in the area and who in 1796 suggested, "Bethel", as the name for the town. John S. Chapman was born March 5, 1831 and in November, 1856 married Arabella Philbrook of Shelburne, N.H., sister of Harvey Philbrook who started in 1861 what is today Philbrook Farm Inn. John Chapman had grown up in the area of his new hotel enterprise as he was the son of Gilman Chapman. His great uncle, Deacon George Chapman, had logged in the area of the mineral spring and claimed authoritatively to have driven the first yoke of oxen past the spring on his way to Gilead fifty years before the hotel's opening.

There were a number of seemingly good reasons for Chapman to open a hotel on the site of the springs. First, he had the opportunity to establish a mineral spring health spa, a formula which had proven successful since the early days of ancient Rome. Secondly, the railroad and ferry from West Bethel provided a reasonably easy access for vacationers coming from as far away as Portland, Boston and New York. Third, the setting was right. Bethel was developing a reputation as a resort town and the nearby White Mountains were easily recognizable summer vacation assets. Lastly, the spring was on "Chapman territory". Why not capitalize on an asset as obviously advantageous as an oil well in one's backyard would be today?

After the rebel attack on Fort Sumpter, newspapers in Oxford County reported weekly developments as the conflict spread, its effects extending even to Bethel where individuals were volunteering to sign up for the Union cause. John Chapman was 30 years old. From available information it is impossible to tell how the hotel business was going but on December 12, 1861, he mustered as a corporal in Company H, Thirteenth Maine Volunteers. Later he was promoted to sergeant and then to captain in the corps d'Afrique. His military service took him to Louisiana. According to Leonard Chapman's 1911, column, "Bethel Fifty Years Ago", John Chapman ran a business in Baton Rouge after his military service but "it proved a failure as well as his Bethel Hotel enterprises."

After Chapman left for military duty, Harvey Philbrook, his brother-in-law, took over Anasagunticook House. Again drawing from very sparse information, it seems that a Charles Philbrook actually managed the hotel although Harvey was listed as the proprietor. His advertisements noted that the hotel was "situated at the celebrated 'Bethel Mineral Springs'." "A carriage was always in waiting for up and down trains at West Bethel

station". (The West Bethel ferry shortened the distance by several miles). Particular attention was given to fishing parties and families.

In Leonard Chapman's column, "Bethel Fifty Years Ago", written for the "Oxford County Citizen" in 1911, he pointed out that in the Maine State Director under "Bethel Hotels" that the Anasagunticook House was one of six listed as being in Bethel. At the time of Anasagunticook House's opening, the Mt. Zircon House at the Milton Mineral Spring was a going business. And another spring was discovered in Peru. All of these items were factors contributing to why John S. Chapman decided to develop the spring into a hotel and mineral spring bath.

Dr. True's account of the opening day read as follows: "On arriving at the grounds we were surprised to find that Mr. Chapman, the landlord, had accomplished so much in such a short time. A goodly number met on the top of a mound in the rear of the house, where a fine prospect of the river and mountains may be seen. A band of Music under the direction of Col. N. Twitchell, headed a long procession to a beautiful grove a short distance from the springs, where seats and a stage had been prepared."

After the speakers for the occasion had finished, the "company" then visited the springs, bathing rooms and House" before separating for the return to their homes.

During the period from August 17 to November 23, 1860, Chapman advertised in the "Bethel Courier" that he had "recently enlarged and refitted his hotel and that carriage and saddle horses will be constantly ready to convey guests to any part of the Androscoggin Valley". These 1860 improvements included expanding the main hotel to 36 rooms and adding a store, bowling alley and bath house. There are other notes that two boiling springs had wonderful iron, magnesia and sulfur waters that besides a source of healthful drinking were recommended for guests to bask in a pool.

Although Bethel boarding houses were filled with guests in the summer of 1867, the Anasagunticook House was changing hands. Under the "Bethel Items" in a June, 1867 edition of the "Oxford Democrat", the paper's correspondent notes that "Anasagunticook House" will be opened by Kingsbury of the Adams House. A July entry in the same paper notes that the Adams House (unidentified) will be closed this summer. Kingsbury apparently was from Portland. Reverend David Garland, pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Mayville married Caroline M. Kingsbury to John Brown Chapman in 1867, but no information about the fate of the Anasagunticook House or the Kingsbury family comes readily to view after that.

Business obviously declined after the war. We know of course that Harvey Philbrook was becoming successfully established with his own inn in Shelburne, N.H. Thus, for the Anasagunticook House the dates read: (1859-?). Later, the buildings were torn down and the salvaged material went into the Bailey's house on Farewell Mountain and into Seth Mason's house further up the Northwest Bethel road. Regardless of who owned the place at the time it went out of business, the historical account credits the Anasagunticook House with being a Chapman enterprise.

Although it has been gone for over 100 years, it is not entirely forgotten. The West Bethel spring was listed in a contemporary U.S. Government catalog of Mineral Springs in the United States. In November 1980, as a result of this catalog listing, the Society was contacted by a firm surveying mineral springs in Maine. An analysis was made and it agrees generally with that of 1959.

Donald G. Bennett



Elizabeth Lord demonstrates quilling at Annual Heritage Day, February 22 at the Moses Mason Museum. Kurt Brown Photo.

HERITAGE DAY HELD FEBRUARY 22

Over seventy-five persons attended the seventh annual Heritage Day sponsored by the Society at the Moses Mason Museum in Bethel February 22. The day is intended to honor the area's heritage by focusing on old crafts, local art, historical films and special tours of the museum.

Demonstrating old crafts were Florence Hastings, rug braiding; Mem Enright, spinning; Elizabeth Lord, quilling; Agnes Haines and Catherine Newell, basketmaking; Marjorie Cummings, hooking; Grace Buck, huck weaving; Nell Valentine, quilting.

Films shown were ones on Currier and Ives prints, a Plymouth, Maine wood carver and the early history of Maine.

Helen Morton directed the art show with local artists Sue Wight, Douglas Bane, Romeo Baker, Joyce Hathaway, Mary Shaw, Shelia Head and Joan Stevens participating.

Once again special tours of the Museum were conducted throughout the afternoon and a candlelight tour in the evening was featured with Dr. and Mrs. Mason (Ernest and Betty Perkins) present. Guides for the day included Helen Morton, Marge Noll, Judy Haskell, Amy Davis, Floribel Haines, Maxine Brown, Jim and Josephine Monahan.

POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS OUTSIDE BETHEL HILL

NORTH BETHEL (Swan's Corner) (1831-51) (1854-55) (1862-78) (1901-20)

Postmasters Phineas Frost 1831-1851
John Hamlin 1854-1855
George C. Atherton 1862-1865
Orange C. Frost 1865-1876
Azilla Swan 1876-1878
Charles Swan 1901-1920

SOUTH BETHEL (Walker's Mills) (1870-1900)

Postmasters Hiram Hodsdon 1870-1884
Lyman W. Russell 1884-1900

OUR READERS WRITE: CHURCH STREET

"In the early 1900's people were buying automobiles but could not drive them in the winter because of poor driving conditions. After a snowstorm a horse driven roller would go up and down the street packing down the snow. If rain fell on top of the packed down snow and it froze, children could be seen skating down the middle of Church Street."

Dorothy Hanscom Jones

"My early recollection of Church Street is that of a dirt road bordered with beautiful tall elms and lined with green shuttered white houses behind white fences, enclosing bright flowers and shrubbery. There were lamp posts at intervals which were lighted at dusk by a man riding in a buggy. Since there was no electricity the houses were all lighted by lamps which had to be washed and cleaned and the wicks trimmed daily. In the winter a big red horse driven snow roller flattened the snow and made the roads passable to sleighs.

Fish and meat men sold their goods to housewives from carts with melting ice dripping in summer as they made their purchases. Also Armenian peddlers came around from door to door with laces, linens etc. to tease the fancy. In spring tramps came to doors looking for hand-outs and seemed to know just where they could get something to eat or a cast off coat and we wondered how they knew."

Kathryn Hanscom Bailey

"Freddie Gordon had a horse and in the winter pulled a long, low flat sled (he may have delivered wood.) We kids used to jump on the back of it for a free ride and he would yell at us. He always drove standing up and I don't believe there was any seat. I can't seem to remember what he drove in the summer looking back. I think we were sort of mean to him."

Margaret Hanscom Humphrey

"I think I remember best of all the church Christmas Tree and supper, when everyone came. The children and young people especially loved it. My nicest Christmas memories are of the babbling voices and the pungent smells of the Christmas tree and of the coffee being brewed downstairs in the kitchen for supper. I have an especially happy memory of my father pulling me on my sled, with a hot dish in my lap for the supper, on our way to the Christmas Tree — under a bright full moon, with his overshoes making a crunching sound on the packed snow. I suppose the big red snow roller had been rolling the streets.

I remember how the children used to love to go to Mr. Farwell's store. He sold clay pipes (called 'T.D. pipes') for I think one cent each. These we used for blowing soap bubbles. He also sold little chocolate candies at ten for a cent, which we called 'McGintys'. We saved our pennies to stock up on 'McGintys'. He had a clock which I shall always remember, that advertised someone's cut plug by having a man's face on the clock face with teeth — white teeth — that chewed a bit for every tick of the clock."

Margaret Herrick Oakes

EDITOR'S CORNER

In the June 1977 issue of the Courier there appeared a list of books by Bethel people or about Bethel. Elsewhere in this issue is a notice of another that should have been included: Joseph Garland's An Experiment in Medicine. If any of our readers have further suggestions, please let me know.

SRH

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Mrs. Helen Allen, Providence, RI; Mrs. Marjorie Anderson, Owls Head; Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Angevine, Bethel; Mrs. Kathryn Bailey, Lewiston; Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Barker, Bethel; Mr. Alvin L. Barth, Bethel; Mrs. Lillian Bartlett, Bethel; Randall H. Bennett, Rumford; Mrs. Mary Billings, Bryant Pond; Mrs. Elizabeth Blake, Bethel; Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Bradley, Riverside, RI; Ms. Betsy Brent, Bethel; Mrs. Carolyn Brooks, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brooks, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Albert Brown, Rumford Center; Miss Jeri Brooks, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Barbara D. Brown, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Norris Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Richard Brown, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Brown, East Longmeadow, MA; Mrs. Geneva Brown, Norway; Miss Julia Brown, Bethel; Miss Karen Brown, Bethel; Mr. Kurt Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Marie C. Brown, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Merton Brown, Jr., Bethel; Mrs. Maxine Brown, Bethel; Mrs. Grace Buck, Bethel; Mrs. Erma Buckley, Gorham, NH; Mrs. Catherine Lyon Bush, Belmont, MA; Mrs. Natalie Butler, Farmington; Ms. Carolyn Campbell, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. T. Richard Carter, Bethel; Mr. Theodore Chadbourne, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Chapman, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Charles N. Clark, DeBary, Fla.; Mr. Hugh Mason Clark, Pine Hill, NJ; Mrs. Carolyn Colby, Bethel; Mrs. Andrew Cole, West Roxbury, MA; Mr. Ben Conant, South Paris; Mr. Roger Conant, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Conrad, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. John Conzelman, Palm Springs, CA; Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Coolidge, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. William Cousins, Bethel; Mr. Richard L. Crommett, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Cummings, Bethel; Mrs. Marjorie Cummings, Bethel; Mr. Roy Cummings, Bethel; Mrs. Amy Davis, Bethel; Mr. John Davis, Rumford Point; Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Davis, Jr., Bethel; Mrs. Ruth Dobson, Concord, NH; Mr. & Mrs. Gayland Dooen, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Dana Douglas, Jr., Bethel; Mr. Arthur Eldredge, Mystic, CT; Mr. Gregory Edwards, Bryant Pond; Mrs. Ruby Emery, Bryant Pond; Mrs. Edith Eypper, Bethel; Mrs. Edna Fallon, Bethel; Mrs. Sue Farrar, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Leon Ferrand, Bethel; Mr. Gordon Fish, St. Johnsbury, VT; Mrs. Abigail Fiske, Gorham, NH; Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln Fiske, Sr., Bethel; Mrs. Harriet M. Forbes, Norway; Mrs. Doris Fraser, Bethel; Mr. Richard Fraser, Bryant Pond; Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fudge, Bethel; Mrs. Thirza E. Gibson, Hampton Falls, NH; Mrs. Herschel Glines, Bethel; Mrs. Henry Godwin, Bethel; Mrs. Celia Gorman, Bethel; Mrs. Dorothy Graves, Bethel; Miss Christine Greenleaf, Bethel; Mrs. Mabel Greenleaf, Bethel; Mrs. Marjorie Greer, Kooskia, Idaho; Mrs. Beatrice Grover, Bethel; Ms. Jean Grover, Bethel; Mrs. Agnes H. Haines, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Charles Haines, Bethel; Mrs. Floribel Haines, Bethel; Mr. Fred Haines, Jr., Bethel; Mr. Peter T. Haines, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. R. Curtis Hamilton, Winchester, MA; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Harding, Sr., Bethel; Carolyn C. Harrison, Rockville, MD; Dr. John Hart, Bangor; Miss Eugenia Haselton, Bangor; Mrs. Judith Haskell, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hastings, Bethel; Mrs. Ruth Hastings, South Paris; Mr. Bruce Hazelton, Cumberland Center; Miss Emeline Heath, Bethel; Mr. Ernest Holt, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Allan Howe, Locke Mills; Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Howe, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. John Gregory Howe, Severn, MD; Dr. Stanley R. Howe, Bethel; Mr. Enoch W. Hunt II, Newcastle; Mr. & Mrs. James Hutchins, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Hutchins, Bethel; Mrs. Iva Hutchinson, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Isham, Bethel; Mrs. Raymond Jackson, Nashua, NH; Mr. & Mrs. Arlan Jodrey, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Johnston, West Sumner; Mrs. Dorothy H. Jones, Portland; Mrs. Helen V. Judkins, Dixfield; Mrs. Virginia Kelly, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Erlon Keniston, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Keniston, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Alden Kennett, Bethel; Mrs. Edward Kennett, Bethel; Mrs. Susan Kettinger, Salem, NH; Mrs. Alice Kimball, Bethel; Mrs. Roberta Kirmse, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kuzyk, Bethel; Mr. Harold Lawrence, Portland; Mr. Elliott Levy, Greenville; Mrs. E. Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Mrs. Doris Lord, Haines

POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS OUTSIDE BETHEL HILL

EAST BETHEL (Middle Intervale, Bean's Corner) (1824-1858)
(1862-1865) (1884-1907) (Discontinued Jan. 21 - July 8, 1886)

Postmasters Timothy Carter 1826-1845
Hiram Holt II 1845-1849
Israel Kimball 1849-1851
Charles E. Swan 1851-1858
John L. Dustin 1858-1862
Elias S. Bartlett 1862-1865
Francis Carpenter 1884-1886
Eugene Bean 1886-1890
Dana B. Grant Mar. - Nov. 1890
Elleridge Crooker 1890-1894
Fred B. Howe 1894-1898
William Tracey 1898-1899
James Swan 1899-1907

WEST BETHEL (Gander Corner) (1837 -)

Postmasters Jacob Holt 1837-1842
Henry Ward 1842-1854
Albert Chapman 1854-1857
Milton Holt 1857-1871
Alpheus S. Bean 1871-1899
Cora J. Mason 1899-1900
Harlan P. Dennison 1900-1914
Elbert R. Briggs 1914-1915
Clara F. Abbott 1915-1926
Paul B. Head 1926-1969
Arthur Gilbert 1969 -

The late Paul Head's nearly 43 years is the Bethel record.

IMAGES AND ISSUES

The Society and the Moses Mason Museum in cooperation with SAD #44 Adult and Community Education and the Maine State Library with the support of the Maine Council for the Humanities and Public Policy and the National Endowment for the Humanities, is sponsoring a film series each Wednesday evening February 25 through April 29.

Those films included are: "Iphigenia", "Welfare", "Alexander", "Dear Inspector", "Harlan County, U.S.A.", "Hester Street", "Padre Padrone", "Potatoes", "With Babies and Banners", "My Brilliant Career" and "Modern Times".

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly newsletter |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

(Please Print)

Name

Address

Signature

Please check appropriate category and send your remittance to: Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| -----Sustaining \$2.50 (Individual) | -----Life over 55 years \$50.00 single |
| -----Contributing \$10.00 | -----Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple |
| -----Patron \$25.00 | -----Life under 55 years \$100.00 single |
| -----Students (under 18 years) \$1.00 | -----Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple |

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Catherine Newell, *President*
Donald G. Bennett, *Vice President*
Edith Eaton Eddy, *Secretary and Clerk*
Board of Trustees
E. Louise Lincoln, *Treasurer*
Judith E. Haskell, *Trustee to September, 1981*
Margaret Joy Tibbetts, *Trustee to September, 1982*
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Helen Morton, *Trustee to September, 1983*

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

There are currently seventy-five life members in the Society.

The latest additions are:

Timothy Mills, a recent graduate of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, is a native of Bryant Pond, Maine.

Mr. & Mrs. Rupert Conroy, Reading, Massachusetts. Mr. Conroy is a salesman for Fostoria Glass and the son of Mrs. Sylvia Conroy of Bethel. Mrs. Conroy is a retired teacher.

Mr. John W. Howe, White Rock, British Columbia is an engineer and the son of Rt. Hon C.D. Howe, former Canadian cabinet minister whose parents were natives of East Bethel.

1981 PROGRAM

Meetings of the Society are held monthly at the Moses Mason House beginning at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted below:

January 1, "So You Think You Know Bethel"; February 5, "Church Street Through the Years", Rosalind Chapman; March 5, "Telephone Service in the Bethel Area, 1902-1981", Ernest Perkins; April 2, Antique Guns, Alden Kennett, film, "Gunsmith at Williamsburg"; May 7, "Bethel's Architectural Heritage", George Allen; June 4, Haunted Houses in Bethel, Films, "In Search of Ghosts", "Blue Nose Ghosts"; July 2, Annual Picnic, Moses Mason Museum grounds, 6 p.m., Meeting with Waterford Historical Society, "Bethel-Waterford Connections"; August 6, Indian Raid Bicentennial Commemoration, slide lecture; September 3, Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Supper, 6:30 p.m.; October 1, Annual "What's It"; November 5, "Highlights of Newry's Past", Paula Wight; December 3, Annual Christmas Program.

City, Fla.; Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Lord, Bethel; Mrs. Leona Lurvey, Bethel; Mrs. Carolyn MacDormand, North Hampton, NH; Mrs. Ethel MacKenzie, Bryant Pond, Ms. Mae Maddox, Norway, Mrs. Jessie McKellick, Bethel; Mrs. Mildred McLain, Bethel; Ms. Marlene Marshall, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Stuart F. Martin, Rumford Point, Mrs. Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel; Mrs. Barbara Merrill, Bethel; Mrs. Caroline Merrill, Bethel; Mrs. Jeordie Merrill, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Miller, Bethel; Mr. E. Lee Mills, Locke Mills; Mrs. Joann Mooney, Ottawa, Ontario; Miss Alice Mundt, Worcester, MA; Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Mundt, Bethel; Mrs. Jean Ness, Bethel; Mrs. Hazel Newell, Locke Mills; Mr. & Mrs. George A. Nickerson, Bethel; Mr. G. Rob Noll, Norway; Mr. George H. Noll, Bethel; Mrs. Jean Owen, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Parsons, Bethel; Mrs. Mary H. Parsons, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Mrs. Stephen Parsons, West Bethel; Mrs. Gertrude Percival, Andover; Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Perkins, Bethel; Mrs. Rachel Bean Perkins, Bow, WA; Mrs. Roberta C. Pevear, Hampton Falls, NH; Mrs. Persis Post, Newry; Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ramage, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph Royer, Bryant Pond; Mrs. Marion Rich, Roanoke, VA; Mrs. Mary T. Rice, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mrs. Janet Richardson, Portland; Mrs. Phyllis H. Roberts, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. David Robinson, Yarmouthport, MA; Mrs. Lillian Rose, Portsmouth, NH; Mr. William J. Russell, Goffstown, NH; Mrs. Alice Taylor, Bristol; Mrs. Marion Taylor, South Portland; Mr. Claude Taylor, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Tewksbury, Kerrville, Texas; Mr. & Mrs. David D. Thompson, Bethel; Mrs. Bertha Thurston, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Murray Thurston, Bethel; Mr. Ray Thurston, South Rumford; Mrs. Hope Tibbetts, Bethel; Mrs. Margaret Sawyer, Waterford; Mr. Elliot Schrader, Garland, Texas; Mr. Stephen T. Seames, Locke Mills; Mr. & Mrs. Basil Seguin, Bryant Pond; Mrs. Olga Seidensticker, Oak Creek, Wis.; Mrs. Claire Smith, West Paris; Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Roland Snyder, West Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Ranald Stevens, Bethel; Mrs. Anna B. Stotts, Bethel; Mr. Glenn E. Swan, Mexico; Mr. James A. Urner, Granby, CT; Mr. & Mrs. Edmond J. Vachon, Bethel; Miss Mary Valentine, Bethel; Mrs. Jane VandenKerckhoven, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Vedella, Rumford; Mrs. Amy C. Verrill, Concord, MA; Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vogt, Bethel; Mrs. Donald Walker, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Waterhouse, Bethel; Mrs. Ruth Watson, Ashville; Mrs. Marah Webster, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. William N. Weston, Rumford Center; Mrs. Hazel Wheeler, Bethel; Miss Mary Wheeler, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Wight, Rumford; Mr. & Mrs. F. Owen Wight, Newry; Mr. & Mrs. Willard Wight, Newry; Mrs. Doris F. Wilkins,

Clearwater, Fla.; Mrs. Ruth Wilkinson, Bethel; Mrs. Eleanor L. Wilson, Bryant Pond, Mrs. Edna York, Bethel; Mr. & Mrs. Zak Zarakov, Providence, RI; Mr. E. Sherman Williamson, Jr., Garnerville, NY; Mrs. Sadie Brooks, South Daytona, Fla.

STUDENT

Coley Fudge, Bethel; Tracy Fudge, Bethel; Douglas Grover, Bethel; James Grover, Bethel; Andrea Howe, Locke Mills, Edva Isham, Bethel; Marybeth Isham, Bethel; Mat Isham, Bethel; Susan L. Isham, Bethel; Becky Jodrey, Bethel; Michael Jodrey, Bethel; Martha Newell, Bethel; Vernon Seguin, Bryant Pond.

FOOTNOTES

"Bethel Chair Company leased the large building known as the rink on Main Street for a term of five years, and have moved their stock into it. The ground floor will be used for the office and general store and show room, and the upper floor for the upholstery and finishing department."

Oxford Advertiser, February 25, 1897

"Mr. Wyman, the sweet corn man, is taking down the old corn factory and having it moved together with the machinery to the new location near the depot, where the town owns about two acres of land and are to build upon it a corn factory with the \$2500 raised for that purpose and Mr. Wyman will occupy it. The old factory building will be an annex to it."

Oxford Advertiser, March 7, 1890

"At the annual meeting in Bethel, the town voted to give H.C. Barker the care of the lockup, and he will be responsible for all money paid for use of room. It is now to be used for the convenience of any persons who wish to occupy a room for a day's business, such as referees, committees, etc., as well as holding court for criminal cases. Why don't the selectmen occupy the room for meetings, instead of hiring a room elsewhere? There is plenty of room for a book-case and everything else"

Oxford Advertiser, March 21, 1890

"The putting in of a water system is fully assured. The pipe has been ordered of R.D. Wood & Co. of Philadelphia, Pa. and the work of construction will commence soon as the spring opens.

Oxford Advertiser, April 11, 1890

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217



Celebration
August 1 - 2, 1981